AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An ~~laboratory~~ assay of a body fluid or tissue sample, which comprises detecting cis-hydroxyproline and derivatives thereof by quantitative analysis.

2. (Currently amended) The ~~laboratory~~ assay of claim 1, wherein cis-4-hydroxyproline is detected.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~laboratory~~ assay of claim 1, wherein cis-hydroxyproline and its derivatives is detected by HPLC, column chromatography, gas chromatography, mass spectroscopy, ion exchange chromatography, immunoassay, radio immunoassay, enzyme immunoassay, or fluorescence immunoassay.

4. (Previously presented) A process for determining cis-hydroxyproline and its derivatives in a body fluid or tissue sample according to the assay of claim 1 which comprises eliminating disturbing substances in the body fluid or tissue sample to be analyzed and quantitatively

determining cis-hydroxyproline and its derivative content in the sample.

5. (Previously presented) The process of claim 4, which comprises using HPLC, gas chromatography, column chromatography, mass spectroscopy, ion exchange chromatography, RIA, ELISA or fluorescence immunoassay to quantitatively determine the cis-hydroxyproline and its derivative content in the sample.

6. (Previously presented) The process of claim 4, wherein the cis-hydroxyproline and its derivative content is determined by comparing with an external standard, an internal standard, or both.

7. (Previously presented) The process of claim 4, wherein the cis-4-hydroxyproline content in the body fluid and tissue sample is determined by HPLC, comprising the following steps:

a) adding an internal standard to the sample to obtain a mixture;

b) hydrolyzing the mixture to obtain a product;

c) adding at least one alkali hydroxide and at least one alkali carbonate to the product of step b);

d) adding a reagent that eliminates the disturbing substance and adding a derivatization reagent to the product of step c); and

e) determining the cis-4-hydroxyproline and its derivative content in the product of step d) by quantitative analysis.

8. (Previously presented) The process of claim 7, wherein before step b) an acid is added.

9. (Previously presented) The process of claim 8, wherein hydrolysis takes place in the presence of hydrochloric acid at a temperature ranging from 80 degrees C to 120 degrees C.

10. (Previously presented) The process of claim 7, wherein the alkali metal compounds added in step c) are hydroxides or carbonates of sodium or potassium.

11. (Previously presented) The process of claim 7, wherein the pH value in step c) is adjusted to a pH ranging from 8.5 to 9 with the addition of HCl.

12. (Previously presented) The process of claim 7, wherein in step d) ortho-phthaldialdehyde (OPA) and as the derivatization reagent an azo dye are added.

13. (Previously presented) The process of claim 7, wherein prior to the quantitative analysis of cis-4-hydroxyproline and its derivatives in step e) the temperature is lowered.

14. (Previously presented) The process of claim 4, wherein the body fluid sample is a urine sample or a blood sample.

15. (Previously presented) The process of claim 7, wherein cis-3-hydroxyproline is used as the internal standard (IS).

16-19. (Cancelled)